

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 9366

CARACAS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, AR

SUBJ: QUARTERLY NARCOTICS REPORT, ARGENTINA OCT/DEC '74

REF: A-4700, JUN 10, 1974

1. SUMMARY: BASICALLY THE QUARTER WAS QUITE INsofar AS IT RELATES TO NARCOTICS IN ARGENTINA. HOWEVER, THE GOA DID PROMULGATE LONG NEEDED NEW NARCOTICS LEGISLATION.
2. ABUS--NO NEW DATA IS AVAILABLE ON PATTERNS.
3. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING--INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT COCAINE LABS FORMERLY LOCATED IN CHILE CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN FAR NORTHWESTERN ARGENTINA.
4. TRAFFICKING TRENDS--INFORMATION FROM ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES INDICATES THAT AFTER A LONG LAPSE MULTI-KILO SHIPMENTS OF HEROIN FROM EUROPE MAY AGAIN BE PASSING THROUGH ARGENTINA. DESTINED FOR THE UNITED STATES.

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5. ENFORCEMENT--IN OCTOBER THE GOA ENACTED THE LONG AWAITED

AMENDMENT TO THE PENAL CODE RELATING TO NARCOTICS. UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATION THE FEDERAL POLICE NOW HAVE NATIONWIDE JURISDICTION TO MAKE INVESTIGATIONS AND ARRESTS, A POWER WHICH DESPITE THE POLICE TITLE WAS PREVIOUSLY LIMITED TO BUENOS AIRES. THE NEW LAW ALSO PROVIDES FOR FAR LONGER JAIL SENTENCES FOR CONVICTED TRAFFICKERS AND FOR MANDATORY HOSPITALIZATION OF ADDICTS (SEE BA 8097). BOTH POLICE AND SOCIAL WELFARE AUTHORITIES ARE DELIGHTED WITH THE TERMS OF THE NEW LAW. IN OCTOBER LEFTWING TERRORISTS ASSASSINATED THE THEN CHIEF OF THE FEDERAL POLICE. THE NEW CHIEF, AS WELL AS THE NEW DEPUTY, ARE BOTH PROFESSIONAL POLICE OFFICERS, EACH OF WHOM AT ONE TIME HEADED THE FEDERAL NARCOTICS POLICE. WHILE THE CHIEFS COMPETENCE CAN BE DEBATED, COOPERATIONS BETWEEN THE DEA DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE FEDERAL POLICE, AS WELL AS THE GENDARMERIA NACIONAL, REMAINS EXCELLENT.

6. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION--ARGENTINAS ONLY
FULLTIME NARCOTICS HOSPITAL "THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL REHABILITATION" (DENARESCO) IS NOW FULLY STAFFED. HOWEVER ONLY 12 OF THE 120 BEDS ARE OCCUPIED, ALL BY VOLUNTARY ADMITTANCES, AND THUS THE FACILITY IS CURRENTLY UNDERUTILIZED. THE DIRECTOR EXPECT THIS SITUATION TO CHANGE AS THE COURTS START MANDATORY HOSPITALIZATION PROCEDURES UNDER THE NEW LAW.

7. TRAINING--DURING THE PERIOD 12 STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS, INCLUDING THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FROM THE GENDARMERIA NACIONAL SENIOR SCHOOL RECEIVED A 5 WEEK ORIENTATION COURSE GIVEN BY THE US BUREAU OF CUSTOMS. UPON THEIR RETURN MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WERE LAVISH IN THEIR PRAISE FOR THE TRAINING TEAM AND EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THEIR NEWLY DEVELOPED SKILLS. IN JANUARY MOST OF THESE OFFICERS WILL ASSUME CHARGE OF THE VARIOUS "AGRUPACIONES", OR REGIMENTS, OF THE GENDARMERIA ALONG THE FRONTIERS. THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND ENTHUSIASM SHOULD BEAR NOTABLE RESULTS IN NARCOTICS WORK.

8. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION--A THREE MAN TEAM OF SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL HELD TALKS WITH GOA OFFICIALS IN LATE NOVEMBER. ACCORDING TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CONATON, THE GOA INTERMINISTERIAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NARCOTICS, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE VISIT WAS BASICALLY A FACTFINDING ONE FOR THE UNFDAC. HOWEVER THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY DID EXPLAIN THE GOA PLANS FOR A SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATION OF SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES. AND STATED THAT THE GROUP SEEMED RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA. THE TEAM DID NOT CONTACT THE EMBASSY.

9. EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES--DUE TO THE CONTINUED DETERIORATION OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION,

THIS EMBASSY AND WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONCERNED DECIDED IT WAS IN THE US NATIONAL INTEREST TO REDUCE TO A MINIMUM THE USG PROFILE IN ARGENTINA EVERN THOUGH THIS NECESSARILY WOULD CURTAIL SOME ACTIVITIES IN HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAM AREAS. THE FULLTIME NARCOTICS COORDINATORS POSITION IS ONE THAT HAS BEEN ELIMINATED AND THE INCUMBENT WILL BE TRANSFERRED EARLY IN CY75. THE FUNCTION WILL BE ASSUMED BY ANOTHER EMBASSY OFFICER. DURINV THE QUARTER THE GOA CONTINUED EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE BOTH URBAN AND RURAL TERRORISTS, AND TO MEET THE PROBLEM OF BOTH LEFTISTS AND RIGHTIST EXTREMISTS WHOSE ACTIVITIES SINCE JULY 1 HAVE CLAIMED OVER 190 VICTIMS. THIS COMBINED WITH A PROBLEM PLAGUED ECONOMY, CONTINUED TO OCCUPY MOST OF THE TIME AND ATTENTION OF THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE GOA. NEVERTHELESS, TE GOA CONTINUES TO VIEW NARCOTICS ABUSE AMONG ITS YOUNG AS ONE OF IF NOT THE MAJOR SOCIAL PROBLEM AND THE TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS AS A MAJOR ENFORCEMENT PROBLEM.
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